formulations where instances of overcharging have been detected and since when the price on each being overcharged: and

(d) what action has been taken by Government on each case and what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government has recovered Rs. 106.34 lakhs including Rs. 20 lakhs deposited by M/s Sandoz in Bombay High Court, on account of overcharging by drug companies after the promulgation of DPCO, 1987. As and when any complaint alleging overcharging prices of certain bulk drugs and formulations is received the same is referred to the concerned State Drug Control Administration for investigation and necessary action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955. The complaints of alleged overcharging in prices include more than 20 bulks drug and several formulations.

To the extent information is available, the State Drugs Controller of Maharashtra has filed complaints in Courts of Law against 9 units including traders and manufacturers. The State Drugs Controller of Gujarat has also initiated action against 3 units on account of overcharging.

Imports of DL-2 Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid

2083. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total imports of DL-Aminobutanol and D-Tartaric Acid by the major producer during the last three years and what was the landed cost of such imports yearwise;

(b) the utilization of both these inputs and production of the end bulk drug during the above period of three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that consumption norms used in pricing were much higher than the actual consumption;

(d) whether it is also a fact that usage of D-Tartaric Acid have been discontinued or restricted and still high consumption norm is given in pricing; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Company-wise import and utilization of drug intermediates are not monitored.

(c) to (e) The prices of bulk drugs are fixed/revised based on the cost-cum-technical study conducted by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, which is an expert body of the Government in this matter. There is no information regarding discontinuation of usage of D-Tartaric Acid.

Furnishing of information by M/s. Rhone Poulanc and Aristo regarding Metronidazole

2084. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to get the details of purchase and prices in respect of Metronidazole from M/s. Rhone Poulanc and M/s. Aristo, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of that their liability under para 7(2) could not be worked out; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to work out the provisional liability in both the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Both these companies were issued notices to submit the required details to work out the amount of liability under para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979. M/s. Rhone Poulanc asked for personal hearing which was granted to them on 24-6-1993, in which the company raised some legal issues which are under examination. M/s. Aristo has not submitted any details and the company has been informed that in case of failure to submit the required details, the Government would be left with no alternative but to work out the liability from whatever data becomes available from whichever source.

Liability of S. G. Pharmaceuticals

2085. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to assess the liability of S. G. Pharmaceuticals for the years 1984—87 in respect of Xylocaine so far;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have